

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for July 15, 2025**

Call To Order

Mr. Burns called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Education Development Center of Ivy Hall School.

Roll Call

Present: Marc Tepper, José Rivera, Dina Manka, Cynthia Zarkowsky, and Mike Burns
Remote: None
Late: None
Absent: Amy Feygin
Administrators in Attendance: Katie Sheridan, Jon Hitcho, Jane Pedersen, Ninja Idrizi, Jennifer Dunne, and Sam Miranda.

Welcome to Visitors

President Burns welcomed members of the faculty, community, and press to the meeting. Members of the audience introduced themselves. Appointed Board member Erika Immel's three children led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Seating of New Board Member

With no objection, Mr. Burns moved this item to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Burns asked newly appointed Board member, Erika Immel, to raise her right hand. Mr. Burns led Ms. Immel in the oath of office. Ms. Immel took her seat at the Board table. Mr. Burns then read the Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards. In celebration of Ms. Immel's appointment, the Board and audience members took a short break for refreshments.

Public Comment

Mr. Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one responded.

Approval of Minutes

June 2025

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025 and June 24, 2025, as presented. All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Release of Closed Session Minutes

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mr. Tepper to release the following closed session minutes in accordance with the Open Meetings Act:

July 16, 2024	October 22, 2024
August 6, 2024	November 19, 2024
August 20, 2024	December 17, 2024
September 17, 2024	

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Destruction of Closed Session Recordings

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to destroy the following recordings of closed session meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act:

July 18, 2023	September 19, 2023
July 26, 2023	October 17, 2023
August 8, 2023	November 14, 2023
August 22, 2023	December 12, 2023

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Financial Statements

Mr. Hitcho presented the financial reports noting that all reports were in order. With no questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Burns directed the business office to place the following financial statements for the month of June 2025 appropriately on file in the business office: Treasurer's Report, Budget Report, and Activity Report.

Board Reports

Finance Committee

Mr. Tepper reported that the Finance Committee met to review routine agenda items, including the July 2024 bills. The committee received updates on the district's current transportation provider and the status of short-term investments. In addition, the committee reviewed the initial draft of the 2025–26 Capital Projects Plan, which primarily focuses on the second phase of HVAC system improvements at Twin Groves. The committee also discussed the annual Hazardous Transportation Zone Resolution on the consent agenda and recommends it be approved.

Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that the committee reviewed PRESS Packet 119, which included 20 policies. Of those, five had minor language updates, while the remaining fifteen required no changes. The committee is also recommending the adoption of nine policies currently listed on the consent agenda.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper reported that activity has been relatively quiet due to the summer legislative recess, and it remains uncertain whether a veto session will be held. He noted that many attendees at a recent IASB Executive Board meeting had participated in a safety seminar in St. Louis, and reminded the board of Board Policy 3:70: Succession of Authority. Ms. Sheridan also provided a brief overview of the recent legislative session.

ELC Update

Mr. Burns had no updates to share, as the ELC Board has not met since the last Board of Education meeting.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

GCI meetings will restart in the 2025-26 school year.

Thought Exchange Partnership

TEP meetings will restart in the 2025-26 school year.

Partnership with KEA Update

The Partnership Meeting Dates for 2025-26 will be Wednesday, October 22, 2025, and Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

Board Articulation Council

None at this time.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee

Ms. Manka reported that the committee met on June 23 to review progress on the Woodlawn Collaboratory. She noted that the project is currently one week ahead of schedule, with no delays, major issues, or changes to the financials. Substantial completion is expected by July 25, with final completion anticipated by August 1. The committee discussed plans for the opening, including strategies to engage staff and students using an onboarding approach similar to that used at Twin Groves. Potential future projects were also briefly discussed, though none are currently in development and, therefore, the committee will pause meeting.

Other

None at this time.

Administrative Reports

Enrollments and Staffing Plan Update

Dr. Pedersen reviewed the memo presented and reported that, aside from a few adjustments due to enrollment shifts, staffing projections were largely accurate. She noted that, based on current course enrollments, the district will require six Spanish teachers at the middle school level. Additionally, Dr. Pedersen recommended the addition of 1.0 FTE special education teacher at Woodlawn to support newly enrolled students and evolving student needs. She also shared that, in collaboration with Ms. Dunne and the building principals, a review of ESP staffing needs has resulted in a recommendation to reduce five special education ESP positions and one intensive special education ESP position across the system.

Summer Projects Update

Mr. Miranda reported that the Woodlawn project is approximately 80% complete, with 10 working days remaining until substantial completion. He emphasized that the project has stayed on schedule, with no delays, major issues, or changes to the financials. Since its start on May 17, time has been managed efficiently. Mr. Miranda also noted that seal coating of the parking lots at Twin Groves, Prairie, and Ivy Hall is scheduled to be completed this summer.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Approval of Board Goals for the 2025-26 School Year

Ms. Sheridan presented the final goals for the 2025-26 school year, including the accompanying implementation and measurement plan, for Board approval. She emphasized that the goals are designed to work in tandem with COW Topics, allowing the Board to receive ongoing updates throughout the year.

A motion was presented by Ms. Manka and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the 2025-26 Board Goals as presented. All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Mr. Rivera to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of:

- The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Tepper, Rivera, Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, and Burns

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:01 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:25 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the minutes of the closed session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Tepper, Rivera, Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, and Burns

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

A motion was presented by Ms. Manka and seconded by Mr. Tepper to accept the resignation of the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Miller, Emily	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	6/25/25

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Employment

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the employment of the following individual(s) for the 2025-26 school year and place appropriately on the salary schedule:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Levitt, Jordyn	Language Development Coach	1.0	Woodlawn	8/6/25
Berge, Devon	Social Studies Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	8/6/25
Rodea Preble, Danae	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	8/6/25
Davison, Ashley	Teacher	1.0	Prairie	8/6/25

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:
Aye: Tepper, Rivera, Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, and Burns
Nay: None

Tenure Attainment 2025-26

Mr. Burns and board members congratulated the following employees who have achieved tenure status for the 2024-25 school year:

Country Meadows

Zachary Carley
Nicolette Lunt
Mary Onsurbe

Ivy Hall

Katherine Knutson
Haley Rogers
Ashley Serpico

Kildeer

Kristen Krohn

Prairie

Angela Kotsonis
Lindsay Silverstein

Twin Groves

Jack Maddox

Woodlawn

Megan DeSilva
Melissa Jakstas
Adam Swerdlow

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the memo presented by Human Resources for the employment, appointment, and dismissal of certain educational support personnel as presented. On a roll call vote the motion carried:

Aye: Tepper, Rivera, Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, and Burns
Nay: None

Consent Agenda

Mr. Burns asked the board if there were any items that needed to be removed from the consent agenda. No one responded.

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Presentation of Bills - July 2025 - to approve the July 2025 bills as presented in the following amounts:

Education	\$4,075,524.52
Operations	\$445,754.20
Debt Service	\$808,631.59
Transportation	\$67,851.24
IMRF	\$0.00
Social Security	\$0.00
Capital Projects	\$0.00
Working Cash	\$0.00
Tort Immunity	\$0.00
Life Safety	\$0.00
Totals	\$5,397,761.55

Approval of Hazardous Transportation Zones Resolution for 2025-26 School Year – to approve the Resolution of Hazardous Conditions Eligible for Transportation;

Designation of Hearing Officer for the 2024-25 School Year – to designate Jane Pedersen to serve as Hearing Officer and Robert Hanrahan as secondary Hearing Officer for the 2025-26 school year;

Designation of Title IX Officer and Non-Discrimination Coordinator for the 2024-25 School Year – to designate Jane Pedersen to serve as the Title IX officer and the Non-Discrimination Coordinator for the 2025-26 school year, and to designate Jennifer Dunne and Jonathan Hitcho as complaint managers;

Approval of Policy - to approve the following policies currently on public review with no comments or suggestions forthcoming:

5:100	Staff Development Program
6:150	Home and Hospital Instruction
7:60	Residence
7:70	Attendance and Truancy
7:250	Student Support Services
7:255	Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence
7:340	Student Records
6:235	Access To Electronic Networks
6:235 AP1	Acceptable Use Policy

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Rivera, Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, Tepper, and Burns

Nay: None

Discussion Items

Identification of COW Topics for 2025-26

Ms. Sheridan introduced a memo outlining the dates for all upcoming Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings, including the recurring annual topics traditionally addressed. The memo also proposed potential discussion topics aligned with the Board's goals. At this stage, Ms. Sheridan collected feedback from Board members and will compile a finalized schedule for approval at the next regular meeting. She highlighted that the August 5 meeting is already scheduled to focus on an overview of the Exceptional Learners Collaborative (ELC), inspired by a presentation recently given to new ELC board members on the organization's history.

Board Assignments

Mr. Burns reviewed the updated Board assignments, noting the addition of Ms. Immel to the Policy Committee. He shared that assignments were distributed to the best of his ability based on Board member preferences and the feedback he received. Mr. Burns also indicated that he plans to revisit and potentially revise the assignments at the start of the new calendar year, once Ms. Immel has had time to acclimate to her new role.

Information Items

Review of Dates for 2025-26 School Year

Ms. Sheridan presented a memo outlining the upcoming GCI and TEP dates for the 2025–26 school year. She also shared an updated Board meeting calendar, which reflects the August 19 meeting taking place at the Woodlawn Collaboratory. Ms. Sheridan noted that this was a timely opportunity to review key dates with the full Board, particularly with the addition of a new member.

New Staff Orientation and Opening Institute Day Invitation

Ms. Sheridan extended two invitations to Board members: the New Staff Orientation Lunch on August 6 and the Opening Institute Day Breakfast on August 14. She noted that it is an opportunity for Board members to attend one or both events to introduce themselves to new and returning staff. Members who are able to attend are asked to RSVP to Ms. McGillian.

E-Learning Renewal Timeline

Ms. Sheridan shared the timeline for renewing the district's E-Learning Plan, which permits the use of remote learning days in place of emergency days when needed. She noted that the plan must be renewed every three years and emphasized that, while the district prioritizes in-person learning for weather-related decisions, the E-Learning Plan serves as a valuable backup option. Ms. Sheridan also indicated that no changes are anticipated from the previous version of the plan.

Recognition from National Organizations for the Illinois Green Ribbon Award

Ms. Sheridan shared a congratulatory letter addressed to the district, signed by a coalition of national non-profit organizations that have long supported the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program. The letter recognized the district for earning state-level recognition from Illinois. In light of the Department's decision to pause national awards this year, these organizations—along with the Illinois Green Alliance—have made a concerted effort to honor nominated schools. Ms. Sheridan added that we are working to create a way to celebrate this achievement with a sign or banner at each school.

FOIA Requests

Since June 17, 2025, the District has received 2 (two) FOIA requests, which have been responded to appropriately.

Board Comments

Board members discussed legal services, new board member onboarding, and district office attendees at future board meetings.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Board of Education, a motion was presented by Ms. Immel and seconded by Mr. Tepper to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Immel, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Rivera, Manka, and Burns

Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the July 15, 2025, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 8:37 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for August 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

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